

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 22, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 have been amended. Claims 1-78 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 being the independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the above amendment and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,538,672 (Dobbelaar) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,396 (Jenson).

Applicants' invention allows a user to navigate through a multi-level hierarchical structure while at the same time displaying information as to where the user is currently located within that hierarchical structure. The hierarchical structure includes a plurality of calendar entries organized into a plurality of groups and subgroups of those groups (claim 1, lines 3-5; claim 19, lines 3-5; claim 40, lines 3-4; claim 58, lines 3-4; specification, page 5, line 21 to page 6, line 5). A scrollable cross-point navigation image is displayed in the form of two bars of panels with a common focus panel at the intersection of the two bars, each of the panels being linked to and identifying a calendar entry, a calendar group, or a calendar subgroup (claim 1, lines 6-9; claim 19, lines 6-9; claim 40, lines 5-8; and claim 58, lines 5-8; specification, page 6, line 6 to page 7, line 8; FIGS. 2-13). The focus panel displays the user's current lowest level in the hierarchical structure, and optionally a successively higher hierarchical level, if any (claim 1, lines 10-11; claim 19, lines 11-12; claim 40, lines 9-10; claim 58, lines 10-11). The hierarchical structure can be best illustrated by referring to an example shown in the figures of the application. Referring, for example, to FIG. 4, the highest level of the folder hierarchy is comprised of "August" (62), "September" (62a), "October" (41), "November" (43), "December" (45), and "January" (47), all of which are shown in horizontal bar 34. The "September" folder is comprised of subgroups "Week 36" (62b), "Week 37" (42), "Week 38" (44), "Week 39" (46), and "Week 40" (48), all of which are shown in vertical bar 32. As shown in FIG. 7, the "Week 38" subgroup (41) is comprised of sub-subgroups "Mon Sept 17", "Tue Sept 18", "Wed Sept 19", "Thur Sept 20", "Fri Sept 21" and "Sat Sept 22", all of which are shown in vertical bar 32. As shown in FIG. 8, the "Mon Sept 17" sub-subgroup (41) is comprised of a plurality of lowest level subgroups "08:00-08:30 Meeting", "08:30-0900 Meeting", "09:00-09:30 Free", "09:30-10:00 Teleconf.", "10:00-10:30 Coffee", and "10:30-11:00 Buy Flowers", all of which are shown in vertical bar 32. Levels in the hierarchy that are higher than that displayed in the focus panel 30, if any, are identified in succeeding adjoining panels of a first

(horizontal) bar 34 of the two bars 32, 34, referring in FIG. 8 to “Monday September 17”, “Week 38”, “September”, “October”, and “August” (as recited in claim 1, lines 12-16; claim 19, lines 13-17; claim 40, lines 11-15; claim 58, lines 12-16). Panels on the second (vertical) bar 32 of the two bars 32, 34 identify calendar entries (if any), calendar groups (if any), or calendar subgroups (if any) of the same level in the hierarchy as the currently selectable lowest level in the hierarchy identified in the focus panel (claim 1, lines 17-19; claim 40, lines 16-18), referring in FIG. 8 to “08:30-0900 Meeting”, “09:00-09:30 Free”, “09:30-10:00 Teleconf.”, “10:00-10:30 Coffee”, and “10:30-11:00 Buy Flowers”. A currently selected lowest level in the hierarchy identified in the focus panel 30 is changed upon the entry of a navigation command by the user on an input device (claim 19, line 10; claim 58, line 9); compare the focus panels 30 in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8.

Dobbelaar teaches a method and apparatus for displaying an electronic program guide by displaying a vertical axis 21 and a horizontal axis 30 on a screen 20, which each corresponds to a particular program attribute such as channel name, broadcast time, program category or program title. A user may select values from the two axis by dragging a pictogram 27, which in turn shows information about the programs corresponding to the selected values. Since the pictogram’s position corresponds to the position of the selected values, the horizontal axis 30 and vertical axis 21 are shifted when a user selects different values and drags the pictogram 27. However, no shifting is performed if all values allowed for the attribute assigned to the axis, 21 or 30 are already displayed (Dobbelaar, col. 7, lines 37-40).

Although Dobbelaar discloses two axes, vertical and horizontal axis 21 and 30, that can be shifted when the pictogram 27 is dragged by a user while selecting new program attribute values (Figure 3, element 23, as referred to in the Office Action, page 2), there is no disclosure or suggestion in Dobbelaar that the vertical 21 and horizontal 30 axes have a common focus panel located in the intersection of the two axes, and being linked to and identifying the attributes of currently selectable lowest level and a subsequent higher level in the hierarchy of the two panels, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58. In short, Dobbelaar does not teach two bars having panels intersecting with each other at a common focus panel.

Additionally, Dobbelaar neither discloses nor suggests navigation through a hierarchical structure of information containing a plurality of groups and at least one level of subgroups, as recited in independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58. In each of Dobbelaar’s axes, only one hierarchical

level is shown, referring to FIG. 3: times on axis 30 and broadcast stations on axis 21. Dobbelaar does not disclose the use of subgroups.

Dobbelaar also does not disclose displaying more than one level in a single axis or bar, as recited in applicants' independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58.

Nor does Dobbelaar teach using the focus panel to show a currently selectable lowest level in the hierarchy and optionally the next higher level. Instead, Dobbelaar discloses using a pictogram 27, which has its own axis-like lines 22 and 31, to correspond with a selected value in the horizontal and vertical axis 30 and 21. Lines 22 and 31 are for the purpose of emphasizing the correspondence between pictogram 27 and a selected value (Dobbelaar, col. 5, lines 60-65). The pictogram 27 contains a number of smaller pictograms 23, 24, 25, one of which may be adapted to show some short textual information (Dobbelaar, col. 6, lines 1-2). Therefore, instead of using a common focus panel to show a currently selectable lowest level in the hierarchy and optionally the next higher level as recited in amended claims 1, 19, 40 and 58, Dobbelaar uses a pictogram 27 containing the information relating to programs and corresponding to the selected values of both axis, indicated by the line 22 and 31. Further, in Dobbelaar, moving through different programs with different attributes is accomplished by dragging the pictogram 27 to a position corresponding to an end of the axis 21. Likewise, shifting of the axis 21 is also accomplished by dragging the pictogram 27 (Dobbelaar, col. 7, lines 41-48), and there is no shifting of the axis being performed if all values allowed for the attribute assigned to the axis 21 and 30 are already displayed (col. 7, lines 37-40).

In summary, Dobbelaar teaches displaying program attribute information in a pictogram 27 that is located separately from the horizontal and vertical axis, 30 and 21, and selecting and changing attribute information of both axes is accomplished by dragging the pictogram 27. However, applicants' amended claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 recite a common focus panel that is located in the intersection of the two panels, each of which being linked to and identifying the information of the two panels. The common focus panel (not a pictogram) displays the hierarchy information of the two panels, and adjoining panels in one of the intersecting bars displays higher level groups in the hierarchy.

The features of applicants' independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 that are not present in Dobbelaar are not present in Jenson, and even if they are, there is no disclosure or suggestion in

either Jenson or Dobbelaar to combine them to result in the invention recited in applicants' independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58.

Jenson teaches a method for controlling a scheduler on a computer display including displaying a calendar, choosing at least one date on the calendar; displaying a schedule in a schedule area on the display for the chosen date. Although Jenson discloses a selected date appearing at the intersection of the top border and the left border (Jenson, FIG. 3a, and col. 5, lines 20-26, relied upon in the Office Action, page 3), the intersection mentioned in Jenson merely refers to an area of the display screen which happens to be an intersection of the left border (for displaying time) and the top border (for displaying month and year). It is not an area where two scrollable panels intersect and it is not linked to any panel, nor does it identify or display any calendar groups or subgroups, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58. Therefore, Jenson fails to provide the deficiencies of Dobbelaar relative to amended independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58.

A person of ordinary skilled in the art would have no motivation to combine Dobbelaar with Jenson in the way proposed in the Office Action, nor has the Office Action cited to any such motivation in these references.

For all of these reasons, amended independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 are patentable over Dobbelaar and Jenson. The Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

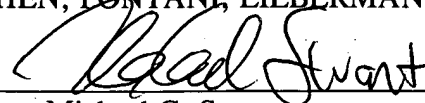
The dependent claims are patentable for the same reasons that amended independent claims 1, 19, 40 and 58 are patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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